AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

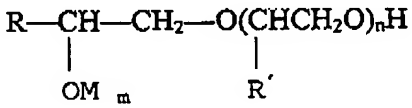
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (original). A fabric softening composition comprising:

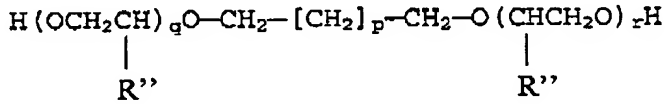
(a) from 0.01 % to 35%, by weight, of a cationic softener;

(b) at least 0.001%, by weight, of a water soluble cross-linked cationic polymer derived from the polymerization of from 5 to 100 mole percent of a cationic vinyl addition monomer, from 0 to 95 mole percent of acrylamide, and from 70 to 300 ppm of a difunctional vinyl addition monomer cross-linking agent; and

(c) a perfume, wherein the composition does not contain an alkoxylated ether of the formula:



wherein R is selected from the group consisting of H and C_1-C_{30} staight chain or branched chain alkyl, m is an integer from 0 to about 6, R' is selected from the group consisting of methyl and ethyl, and n is an integer from about 3 to about 30; or an alkoxylated diether of the formula:



wherein R'' is selected from the group consisting of methyl and ethyl, p is an integer from about 1 to about 6, and ech q and r are independently selected so that their sum is an integer from about 3 to about 30.

Claim 2 (original). The fabric softening composition of claim 1, wherein said cationic polymer is derived from said polymerization using 75 to 200 ppm of said cross-linking agent.

Claim 3 (original). The fabric softening composition of claim 3, wherein said cationic polymer is derived from said polymerization using 80 to 150 ppm of said cross-linking agent.

Claim 4 (original). The fabric softening composition of claim 1, wherein said cationic polymer is a cross-linked cationic vinyl polymer.

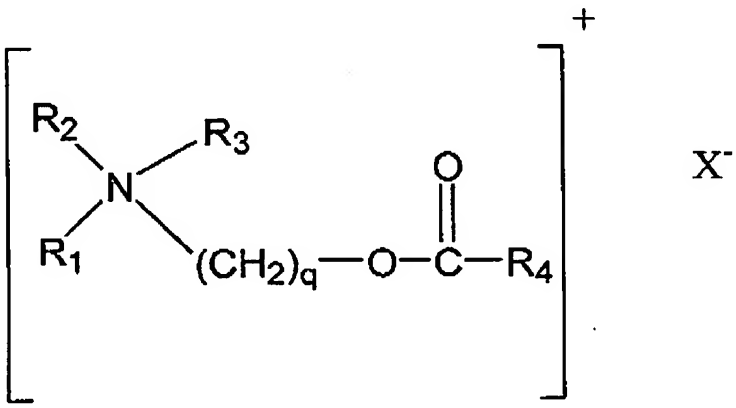
Claim 5 (original). The fabric softening composition of claim 4, wherein said polymer comprises a quaternary ammonium salt of an acrylate or methacrylate.

Claim 6 (original). The fabric softening composition of claim 5 wherein said polymer comprises a quaternary ammonium salt of dimethyl aminoethyl methacrylate.

Claim 7 (original). The fabric softening composition of claim 1 wherein the cationic softener is selected from the group consisting of esterquats, imidazolinium quats, difatty diamide ammonium methyl sulfate, and ditallow dimethyl ammonium chloride.

Claim 8 (original). The fabric softening composition of claim 7 wherein said cationic softener is an esterquat.

Claim 9 (original). The fabric softening composition of claim 8 wherein said esterquat is a biodegradable fatty ester quaternary ammonium compound having the Formula:

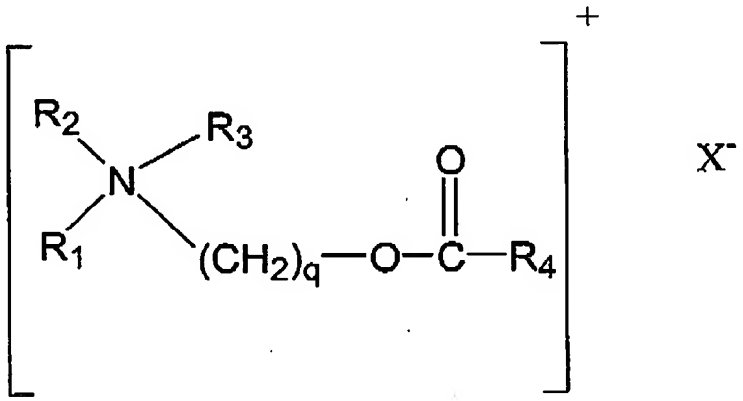


wherein R4 represents an aliphatic hydrocarbon group having from 8 to 22 carbon atoms, R_2 and R_3 represent $(CH_2)_s$-R_5 where R_5 represents an alkoxy carbonyl group containing from 8 to 22 carbon atoms, benzyl, phenyl, (C1-C4) – alkyl substituted phenyl, OH or H; R1 represents $(CH_2)_t$

R_6 where R_6 represents benzyl, phenyl, (C1-C4) – alkyl substituted phenyl, OH or H; q, s, and t, each independently, represent an integer from 1 to 3; and X^- is a softener compatible anion.

Claim 10 (original). A fabric softening composition comprising:

(a) from 0.01% to 35%, by weight, of a cationic softener comprising a biodegradable fatty ester quaternary ammonium compound having the formula:



wherein R_1 is C_1-C_4 alkyl;

R_2 and R_3 are ß-C_8-C_{22}-acyloxy ethyl or ß-hydroxy ethyl;

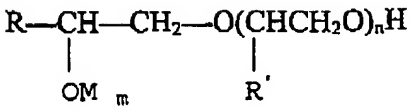
R4 is an aliphatic hydrocarbon group having from 8 to 22 carbon atoms;

q is an integer from 1 to 3; and

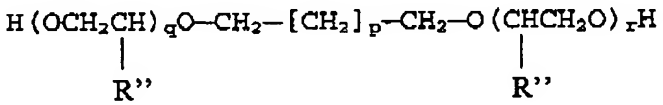
X^- is a softener compatible anion;

(b) at least 0.001% of a water-soluble cross-linked cationic polymer derived from the polymerization of from 5 to 100 mole percent of a cationic vinyl addition monomer, from 0 to 95 mole percent of acrylamide, and from 70 to 300 ppm of a difunctional vinyl addition monomer cross-linking agent; and

(c) at least 0.001% of a chelating compound capable of chelating metal ions and selected from the group consisting of amino carboxylic acid compounds, organo aminophosphonic acid compounds and mixtures thereof, wherein the composition does not contain an alkoxylated ether of the formula:



wherein R is selected from the group consisting of H and C_1-C_{30} staight chain or branched chain alkyl, m is an integer from 0 to about 6, R' is selected from the group consisting of methyl and ethyl, and n is an integer from about 3 to about 30; or an alkoxylated diether of the formula:



wherein R'' is selected from the group consisting of methyl and ethyl, p is an integer from about 1 to about 6, and each of q and r are independently selected so that their sum is an integer from about 3 to about 30.

Claim 11 (original). The fabric softening composition of claim 10 wherein said cationic polymer is derived from said polymerization using 75 to 200 ppm of said cross-linking agent.

Claim 12 (original). The fabric softening composition of claim 10 wherein said cationic polymer is derived from said polymerization using 80 to 150 ppm of said cross-linking agent.

Claim 13 (original). The fabric softening composition of claim 10 wherein said cationic polymer is a cross-linked cationic vinyl polymer.

Claim 14 (original). The fabric softening composition of claim 13 which said vinyl polymer comprises a quaternary ammonium salt of an acrylate or methacrylate.

Claim 15 (original). The fabric softening composition of claim 14 wherein said polymer comprises a quaternary ammonium salt of dimethyl aminoethyl methacrylate.

Claim 16 (original). The fabric softening composition of claim 10 wherein said chelating compound comprises an amino carboxylic acid compound.

Claim 17 (original). The fabric softening composition of claim 10 wherein said chelating compound comprises an organo aminophosphonic acid compound.